KVIC has taken a number of steps to develop agro-based industries in the country such as providing financial assistance in the form of grant and loan on the basis of projects submitted by its implementing agencies like registered institutions, cooperative societies, state KVI Boards and individual entrepreneurs. In order to boost the production of these industries and to provide gainful employment to the rural artisans, KVIC has launched national programme in respect of some of the village indsutries. One such industry is bee-keeping which is an agro-based industry.

The KVIC in collaboration with North Eastern Council has sanctioned a regional project on development of Agiculture for commercial exploitation in North Eastern region. KVIC has taken up some special schemes such as 125 Blocks Development Programme in backward areas under which also agro-based industries are being implemented. Under KVIC training programme, it imparts training in various village industries including agro-based activities. Under project approach, projects costing up to Rs. 10.00 lakhs are eligible for 25 per cent margin money initially in the form of interest free loan and after repayment of C.E. loan with interest. The same will be converted into grant. The project costing beyond Rs. 10.00 lakhs and up to Rs. 25.00 lakhs are eligible for margin money at the rate of 25 per cent for first Rs. 10.00 lakhs and for remaining amount at the rate of 10 per cent of the balance. In case of Hill Border, Tribal and Weaker Section areas, SC/ST/OBC/ MINORITY, SEMFEX-III and Women beneficiaries, the project up to Rs. 10.00 lakhs will get 30 per cent as margin money. Apart from KVIC's financial assistance, funds are also provided through institutional financing agencies on the basis of interest subsidy eligibility certificate, under which the implementing agencies bear interest at the rate of four per cent per annum and difference of the interest charged by bank is being subsidised by KVIC.

(e) and (f) Agro-based industries are open to any entrepreneur who fulfils the requirements under the licensing procedure.

**Dereservation of items reserved for the SSIs**

3058. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether dereservation of fifteen items from SSI list have been notified;

(b) if so, the names of these items with reasons therefor;

(c) whether some more items were also dereserved prior to this list of fifteen items;

(d) if so, the names of these items with reasons therefor;

(e) whether manufacture of dereserved items can now be undertaken by any industrial unit of any category;

(f) whether Government propose to dereserve some more items in SSI list in future;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Dereservation of fifteen items from the list of items reserved exclusively for the manufacture of small scale sector has been notified vide Notification SO 298(E) dated 3.4.97.

(b) With a view to reduce wastage of agricultural items, improvement of quality, hygiene and export promotion, the following 15 items have been dereserved:

Ice Cream, Vinegar, Rice Milling, Dal Milling, Biscuits, Poultry feed, Synthetic Syrups, Corrugated paper & boards, Hair dirers—all types, Hub caps—auto, Ornamental fittings—auto, Spot lamps assembly—auto, Stop lamp assembly—auto, Tail lamp assembly —auto and Ash trays—Car fitting.

(c) and (d) The reservation policy was initiated in 1967 with 47 items being reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector. Since then from time to time, items have been added to and deleted from the reservation list. The reservation list contained 836 items in 1989. There has not been any change in the reservation list till 3rd April, 1997 when the above 15 items were notified for dereservation.

(e) yes, Sir.

(f) to (h) Reservation/dereservation of items is a continuous process and is being reviewed periodically by the Advisory Committee on Reservation constituted by the Government under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. This Committee meets at regular intervals and recommends to the Government items to be added to and deleted from the list.

**Setting up of polystyrene unit by Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**

3059. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government Undertaking viz. Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. propose to set up polystyrene unit;

(b) if so, details thereof with name of place identified for the purpose and amount to be spent on this project;

(c) whether the setting up of this unit would benefit the progress of country in any way;

(d) whether setting up of this unit would also benefit common consumer of polystyrene;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. is on the look out for setting up joint venture for products which will have a locational advantage. No particular product has been identified.

(b) to (f) Do not arise, in view of above.

**Pollution control technology**

3060. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has developed a pollution control technology for steel plants;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether any public or private sector steel plant have shown interest in the technology and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) BHEL has developed an Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) for controlling air pollution in Steel Plants. These ESPs can be used in Sinter, Dedusting, Sponge Iron Plants and also in Gas cleaning Equipments.

BHEL is supplying these ESPs for use in Rourkela Steel Plant and Bhilai Steel Plant in the Public Sector and M/s. Prakash Industries in the Private Sector.

**Performance of BHEL**

3061. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the performane of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in 1996-97;

(b) the profits earned by them; and

(c) the outstanding order to be carried out and efforts made to bag fresh orders to earn foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The performance of BHEL and the profits earned by them during 1996-97 are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

| ITEM | 1995-96 | 1996-97 (Prov)* | Increase over 1995-96 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Turnover | 4833.5 | 5740 | 19% |
| Profit before tax | 582.3 | 848 | 46% |
| Profit after tax | 350.2 | 468 | 34% |

*Subject to Audit

(c) The outstanding orders as on 31.3.97 are to the tune of Rs. 10,600 crore. BHEL has been competing and will continue to compete for Multilaterally Funded Projects for getting deemed export orders. It will also continue its efforts to get physical Export Orders for earning foreign exchange.